



**DOUGLAS COUNTY LEPC &
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BOARD**
111 East Eleventh Street, Unit 200
Lawrence, KS 66044-2909
(785) 832-5259

January 3, 2024

Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical Station #5

Chair Tony Foster welcomed members of the Douglas County Emergency Management Board/Local Emergency Planning Committee on January 3, 2024.

LEPC Board Members present in the meeting included:

Truman Waugh	Hubert White
Brad August	Mindy Andrasevits
John Stipetich	Mike Russell
Shannon Wells	Tony Foster
Elizabeth Keever	Scott Fewins
Kay Johnson	McKenna Hansen
Veronica White	Jamie Hofling
Chad Voigt	Karrey Britt
Kathy Porsch	Vince Avila
Pat Deaver	Matthew Faulk
Teri Axman	Joe Hardy
Greg Gardner	

Emergency Management staff included:

Joshua Taylor	Kate Dinneen
Robert Bieniecki	Erin Huneke
Kari Wempe	Jillian Rodrigue
Wayne Deaver	

Others attending: Alison Littell, Mitch Young, Terry Kegin, Kyle Lewis, Shannon Wilson, Patrick Bircher

Welcome

- Chair Tony Foster called the meeting to order, and members introduced themselves.

Presentations:

- Mitch Young and Misty Bosch-Hastings, City of Lawrence presented on the city's new emergency shelter plan for the city's homeless population, the Village.
- Josh Taylor introduced the Integrated Preparedness Plan Workshop for 2024.

Minutes of October 4, 2023:

- Brad August moved to approve the minutes of the October 4 Full Board Meeting. Mike Russell seconded and the motion passed.

Common Acronyms:

Volunteers: Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Auxiliary Communications Team (ACT)
Grants: Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant (HMEP), Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)
Plans: Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP), Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)
COVID-19 Related: Unified Command (UC), Emergency Support Function (ESF), Recovery Support Function (RSF)
Procurement: Request for Proposal (RFP), Request for Quote (RFQ)
IPPW: Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop
ARPA: American Rescue Plan Act



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Executive Committee Business:

- City of Lawrence appointment – Lawrence did not appoint a rep. to the LEPC for the 2023-2024 year until November; Kathy Porsch has been appointed through July 2024.
- The Board recognized Truman “Bud” Waugh for his decades of service to the LEPC, many as a representative of the City of Lawrence City Commission.

Staff Updates – Jillian Rodrigue, Josh Taylor, Erin Huneke, Robert Bieniecki

- Plans:
 - **LEOP:** The next rewrite of the EOP is due in June of 2024, after which the revision cycle will be back to a 5-year schedule. New standards came out in December but will not be required. Douglas County will rewrite according to the old standards and incorporate new standards in updates over the next months and years.
 - **COOP:**
 - New COOP workshops will take place in Spring or Summer of 2024.
 - County departments and agencies continue to develop their COOP plans. EM is able to take a bird’s eye view in the BOLD planning system and is working to adjust for resource conflicts. Josh recommended that agencies think carefully about secondary location and resource needs as they create their COOP plans.
 - Guidelines are being clarified surrounding the use of the BOLD planning system for non-governmental organizations.
 - Following the countywide Cybersecurity Tabletop Exercise, the county administrator is requiring all departments to complete their COOP plans.
 - **Mitigation:**
 - Flood and fire mitigation grants opportunities are now closed – applicants should have heard back or will soon.
 - The Region K Hazard Mitigation plan is due for a rewrite in 2024; a kickoff meeting was hosted in the Emergency Operations Center in November. Participation in planning and promulgation of the finished plan are required for jurisdictions and their residents to be eligible to apply for future mitigation grant funding.
- Grants:
 - **HMEP:** EM has applied for funding for a Tabletop Exercise for 2024.
 - **EMPG:** EM has been approved for 2023 funding, and a reimbursement application will be submitted in the next couple of weeks.
- ARPA Project Updates:
 - Sirens, Digipeater Project and Cellular Backup Project: Both projects are complete.

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- Main EOC: EM is reviewing 2 bids for the electronics/AV system. The goal is to complete this project by the end of March in time for potential NCAA tournament activations.
 - Alternate EOC: This project is complete.
 - EM Vehicle: This project is complete apart from decals and radio installation.
 - EM Trailer: EM has the trailer and will be adding decals next.
 - PPE: Projects are winding down or complete.
 - All ARPA projects will be complete by the end of 2024.
 - Volunteer Groups:
 - The End of Year meeting was held December 14, where we looked back at the year and began planning for the year ahead. Updates on new volunteer groups were shared.
 - Skywarn nets are increasing in the first quarter of the year, leading into severe weather season. ACT continues its weekly nets.
 - Q1 is always a busy training period, beginning this week.
 - Resolution Updates:
 - Open Burning: The county commission passed a resolution updating the language in the county code surrounding open burning. Read more about the update here: <https://www.douglascountyks.org/news/2023/11/30/revised-open-burning-regulations-provide-one-stop-resource-information-more>
 - Public education efforts are being planned in conjunction with Karrey Britt.
 - Joint Cities-County Resolution: Updating this resolution is the next project. This will lead to proposed updates for the LEPC bylaws.
 - Outreach and Training:
 - The After Action Report and Improvement Plan are complete for the countywide Cybersecurity exercise. Improvements will include changes to plans and the expansion of the use of Everbridge.
 - Weather 101 will take place March 18 at the Lawrence Public Library. More information to follow.
 - Severe Weather Awareness Week will be March 4-8. The Statewide Tornado Drill will take place at 11am on Wednesday, March 6. EM is considering testing the full capability of the sirens (they will sound longer) for the statewide drill.
 - EM does more business walkthroughs and severe weather presentations this time of year. If you are interested, reach out or fill out the form here: dgcoks.org/emoutreach
 - EM will present to the Leadership Lawrence Class in the coming months.
 - The 2023 DCEM Annual Report is complete and can be viewed here: <https://gis.douglascountyks.org/portal/apps/storymaps/stories/ed33492680ad4747bef5928dee6c2ac0>

Information Sharing

- Joe Hardy: Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical has a new recruit class starting this month which will finish in May.

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- Brad August: Brad shared an example his company (Trecora) experienced in Syracuse where a strong relationship between industry, the LEPC, and first responders was critical in the success of handling the incident.
 - Chad Voigt: The federal government changed bridge ratings. Kansas Department of Transportation funded rating updates in Douglas County; this work is now complete. New signs are up, and a map can be provided. Only a few bridges will affect emergency vehicle routes.
 - Teri Axman: LMH Health is working on updates to their EOP and COOP plan as well as their annual Hazard and Vulnerability Analysis. Staffing remains a concern with high levels of illness in the community.
 - Veronica White: Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health has a new preparedness committee (expanded from one position). Annual Incident Command System (ICS) training is being implemented.
 - Vince Avila: Evergy is watching for winter storms. Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical recently gave linemen training on fentanyl response.
 - Elizabeth Keever: Heartland Community Health continues to focus on cybersecurity.
 - John Stipetich:
 - KU's Integrated Preparedness and Threat Assessment Committee continues work. A threat assessment was completed last quarter and an IPPW will be held in April.
 - ICS courses have been assigned to EOC staff.
 - Campus has 22 new AEDs and an updated location map on the website.
 - EOP draft is currently in leadership review.
 - Mindy Andrasevits: Eudora Fire will host fire school this fall, more details to come.
 - Scott Fewins: City of Lawrence is working on ICS reviews for leadership staff. The 23rd Street construction project is complete.
 - Jamie Hofling: The Douglas County Climate Action Plan first draft has been published and received comments. The next draft will be ready in the next few weeks.
 - McKenna Hansen: American Red Cross is working to be more present in communities and has a variety of programs for all ages that can be scheduled for different groups. Free smoke detectors, including installation, are also available.
 - Terry Kegin: The state is hiring a human services officer position, and Terry is recruiting for the state incident support team.
 - Shannon Wells: Lawrence Human Society is beginning an update to its emergency animal response (CART – County Animal Response Team).
 - Karry Britt: Karrey is working on open burning education, education on how to access care when you are in crisis (911/988/211). The Douglas County Public Information Officer group is meeting later this month.

Adjourn:

Tony Foster called for a motion to adjourn. John Stipetich so moved, and Mike Russell seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

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